

# How To Get Involved

**Students:** Don't miss out on an opportunity to prepare for your future and earn special recognition. Distinguished performance on an ACE examination will enhance your self-confidence and add to your record of achievement for resumes and applications for work and college. Check with your school counselor early in your high school career to see if coursework leading to an ACE examination is offered.

**Parents:** Your teenager will benefit from this program. Encourage your teen to participate in a career-technical education program and to take the related ACE examination. Career preparation is for all students whether they are bound for work or college. The ACE program helps bridge the gap between school and work by recognizing student learning and achievement that helps prepare young people for entry-level employment and post-secondary education. Graduates with recognition from the ACE program are prepared to earn a living, supplement their income while going to college, and complete college work in their selected career path.

**Teachers/ROCP Directors/Administrators:** Help your students achieve. If career-technical education programs are taught at your school and your coursework is aligned to the career preparation standards, register your students to take the related ACE examination. Registration forms may be obtained through your district office or ROCP in January. There is no cost to your school or district for administering the ACE examination. The examination is administered at your school site.

Teachers are encouraged to participate during the summer by scoring ACE examinations. Their expertise is vital to the scoring process, and it is a rewarding professional growth experience.

**Employers:** Be sure to look for ACE recognition on student resumes. Recognition on an ACE examination in a specific career area designates a high level of achievement in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary for an entry-level position.

## For More Information

Standards and Assessment Division  
California Department of Education

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# Assessments in Career Education

# ACE



## A Bridge Between School and Career

California Department of Education

# The ACE Examination

The Assessments in Career Education (ACE) program offers end-of-course examinations that recognize students who demonstrate outstanding achievement in selected career-technical areas. Recognition on this examination provides a record of student achievement for resumes, transcripts, and applications for jobs and post-secondary schooling. The ACE program helps to bridge school and work.

ACE examinations, based on Career Preparation Standards\*, are offered in the following areas:

- ♦ *Agricultural Core (Agriculture)*
- ♦ *Computer Science & Information Systems (Business)*
- ♦ *Health Care, Level 1 (Health Careers)*
- ♦ *Food Service and Hospitality (Home Economics Careers & Technology)*
- ♦ *Technology Core (Industrial and Technology Education)*

Patterned after the well-established Golden State Examination program, an ACE examination consists of two, 45-minute sessions. Each examination includes multiple-choice questions and written-response questions or problem-solving tasks. Registration for ACE examinations begins in January. The examinations are given in May of each year.

## Eligibility & Preparation

To be eligible to take the examination, students must enroll and complete a career-technical course or sequence of courses that provide instruction related to all aspects of the content covered by the examination. Because students may take the ACE examination only one time, it is essential that they are well-prepared. To prepare for ACE, students should:

- ♦ practice responding in writing to questions and problem-solving tasks in their classes.
- ♦ review sample test questions and student work that are in the ACE Guides for Teachers posted on the Internet:  
[www.cde.ca.gov/cilbranch/sca/ace](http://www.cde.ca.gov/cilbranch/sca/ace)

\* Challenge Career Preparation Standards:  
[www.cde.ca.gov/challenge/Contents.html](http://www.cde.ca.gov/challenge/Contents.html)

## Results & Student Recognition

Written-response items from the ACE examinations are scored in the summer by teachers in related subject areas from across the state. Individual student results are sent to school districts in the fall. Students who do well on their ACE examination receive state recognition for achieving one of three levels: high honors, honors, and recognition.

Recognition from the California Department of Education includes:

- ♦ state award of ACE Academic Excellence
- ♦ record of achievement on transcript
- ♦ honor roll banner for school
- ♦ letter announcing individual student success to state legislators
- ♦ ACE insignia on diploma for recipients of honors and high honors

### Congratulations

to students who achieve high honors, honors,  
and recognition on an ACE examination.

You

will have distinguished yourself in your  
selected career-path  
and  
will have enhanced your record  
of achievement to show potential  
employers and post-secondary schools.

